

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A method of ~~protecting~~ reducing or delaying damage to submerged structures ~~from damage~~ due to adhesion and multiplication by harmful organisms living in the water in seawater or in industrial water systems, comprising the step of applying to the outside of the structure a biocide-free antifouling agent comprising ~~mineral~~ fine basalt fibers or filaments, or comprising a combination of fine basalt fibers or filaments and E glass fibers, wherein the fine basalt fibers or filaments or E-glass fibers have ~~with~~ a SiO₂ rate of more than 50% by weight,

wherein the antifouling agent is applied in the form of a textile fabric selected from the group consisting of interlaid scrim, woven fabric, knitted fabrics or braiding, a fabric designed by the multiaxial technique, and a fleece,

wherein the exterior surface of the textile fabric to be in contact with the seawater or industrial water ~~the antifouling agent is formed predominantly by exposed freely mobile fine basalt fibers or filaments and the fabric is designed as interlaid scrim, woven fabric, knitted fabrics or braiding, a fabric designed by the multiaxial technique or a fleece.~~

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the fabric is a fishing net which is placed on the substrate ~~to be protected~~ or on underwater surfaces ~~to be protected~~.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the fishing net is a knotless, warp-knitted fishing net suitable for aquaculture or an antifouling coating.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the textile fabric is applied by means of adhesives or other chemically adhesive products to the substrate or to the underwater surface ~~to be protected~~, or the textile fabric is applied to the substrate ~~to be protected~~ or to the underwater surface by sheathing with tightly woven fabrics or strips or by braiding.

16. (canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the textile fabric has edge protection along its edges.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, whereby the woven fabric comprises warp and weft threads, in each case basalt fibers.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, whereby roving and yarns with a fineness of 50 to 3000 tex, are used for the woven fabric and the woven fabrics produced from the yarns have a surface weight of 70 to 1500g/m².

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, whereby roving and yarns with a fineness of 50 to 500 tex, are used for the woven fabric.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, whereby the woven fabrics produced from the yarns have a surface weight of 90 to 200g/m².

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, whereby the woven fabric comprises several coats or layers and is fastened mechanically in terms of weaving technology with quilting seams, whereby the quilting seams are executed using a sewing cotton.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12; whereby the layers of the textile fabric are connected to one another by means of adhesion technology.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the layers of the textile fabric are connected to one another by means of welding adhesive tape and/or by means of adhesive powder.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, whereby the textile fabric material comprises yarns or multiyarns.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, whereby the textile fabric, prior to use as an antifouling agent, is subjected to a texturing process.